

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 15, 2007

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 9, 2007

SENATE BILL

No. 924

Introduced by Senator Perata

(Principal coauthors: Senators Migden and Romero)

*(Coauthors: Senators Corbett, Kuehl, Oropeza, Ridley-Thomas, Scott,
and Wiggins)*

(Coauthor: Assembly Member Dymally)

February 23, 2007

An act relating to Iraq, and calling an election, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 924, as amended, Perata. ~~Iraq-war-~~ *war: advisory election.*

This bill would require the Secretary of State to call an election for the purpose of placing before the voters of the state an advisory question asking whether the President should end the United States occupation of Iraq, and whether the President and the Congress should provide the necessary diplomatic and nonmilitary assistance to promote peace and stability in Iraq and the Middle East. The bill would require the Secretary of State to communicate the results of this election to the President and to consolidate this election with the statewide presidential primary election of February 5, 2008. By increasing the duties of local elections officials, the addition of an election to place an advisory question on the ballot would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an act calling for an election.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 *SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the*
2 *following:*
3 *(a) Whereas, The United States is now into the fifth year of a*
4 *war in Iraq with no end in sight; and*
5 *(b) Whereas, On May 1, 2003, President Bush declared the*
6 *“end of major combat operations” in Iraq, yet tragic military and*
7 *civilian casualties and injuries in Iraq continue, with the fourth*
8 *year of this conflict resulting in the greatest number of casualties*
9 *and injuries; and*
10 *(c) Whereas, Despite the deaths of more than 3,300 American*
11 *men and women in our Armed Forces, and the injury of more than*
12 *24,000 Americans, President George W. Bush has refused to begin*
13 *a safe and orderly withdrawal of American soldiers from Iraq;*
14 *and*
15 *(d) Whereas, Civilian casualties in Iraq have been significant,*
16 *with more than 62,000 civilian Iraqi men, women, and children*
17 *killed, and many more wounded or displaced from their homes;*
18 *and*
19 *(e) Whereas, Hostilities in Iraq have continued for more than*
20 *four years, requiring the expenditure of more than*
21 *\$350,000,000,000, an amount that has forced the federal*
22 *government to devote fewer resources to properly funding schools,*
23 *health systems, homeland security, and other vital domestic needs;*
24 *and*
25 *(f) Whereas, Three hundred forty-six Californians have been*
26 *among the service members killed in the Iraq conflict, more than*
27 *any other state, and thousands more Californians, including more*
28 *than 800 members of California’s National Guard, remain*
29 *deployed in Iraq and at grave risk; and*

1 (g) *Whereas, The widely respected and bipartisan Iraq Study*
2 *Group recommended that the United States withdraw its Armed*
3 *Forces from Iraq by early 2008; and*

4 (h) *Whereas, In spite of a growing consensus among experienced*
5 *and respected military officials, diplomats, scholars, and the*
6 *American public that the time has come to begin the safe and*
7 *orderly withdrawal of United States Armed Forces, the Bush*
8 *Administration has chosen instead to jeopardize the safety of*
9 *additional personnel with an ill-conceived “surge”, an increase*
10 *in the number of troops deployed to Iraq; and*

11 (i) *Whereas, Despite the best efforts and tremendous sacrifices*
12 *made by service members and their families, the continued*
13 *presence of United States Armed Forces will not lead to peace and*
14 *stability in Iraq or the Middle East.*

15 (j) *Therefore, in support of the men and women serving in the*
16 *United States Armed Forces in Iraq, this act provides the people*
17 *of California the opportunity to voice their heart felt concerns and*
18 *to be heard at the ballot on this critical issue.*

19 ~~SECTION 1.~~

20 SEC. 2. (a) The Secretary of State shall call an election for the
21 purpose of placing before the voters of this state the following
22 advisory question:

23 Shall President George W. Bush, in support of the men and
24 women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, end the
25 United States occupation of Iraq and immediately begin the safe
26 and orderly withdrawal of all United States forces; and, further,
27 shall President George W. Bush and the Congress provide the
28 necessary diplomatic and nonmilitary assistance to promote peace
29 and stability in Iraq and the Middle East?

30 (b) Upon certification of the election, the Secretary of State
31 shall communicate to President George W. Bush the results of the
32 election asking the question set forth in subdivision (a).

33 (c) The provisions of the Elections Code that apply to the
34 preparation of ballot measures and ballot materials at a statewide
35 election shall apply to the measure submitted pursuant to this
36 section.

37 (d) Notwithstanding Section 9040 of the Elections Code, the
38 Secretary of State shall consolidate the election provided for in
39 subdivision (a) with the statewide presidential primary election to
40 be held on February 5, 2008.

1 ~~SEC. 2.~~

2 *SEC. 3.* If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
3 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
4 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
5 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
6 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

7 ~~SEC. 3.~~

8 *SEC. 4.* This act calls an election within the meaning of Article
9 IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect.